

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 922

(Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Garrett County - Wine Festival License - Sunday Sales

This bill authorizes a holder of a wine festival license that is issued for use in the 11th or 15th election district in Garrett County to sell wine on a Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. and not in conjunction with a meal.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue one wine festival license annually. The board must approve one or two days, excluding Sunday, annually for the wine festival, provided that the days selected do not occur on the same weekend as the Maryland Wine Festival.

In a November 1996 referendum, voters in the 11th and 15th election districts in Garrett County approved Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages. Holders of a Class C service club license may sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Holders of Class B licenses, special two-day Class C licenses, special six-day Class C licenses, and special

12-day Class C licenses may sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., provided that the alcoholic beverage is served with a meal.

Background: A number of beer and wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are seen as advertising and publicity events for businesses participating in the festival. Beer and wine festival licenses may be issued in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties. In addition to beer and wine festivals, special wine festival licenses may be issued in Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Garrett, Harford, Howard, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, and Wicomico counties, as well as Baltimore City. A special beer festival license may be obtained in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Frederick, and Wicomico counties.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues for businesses participating in a wine festival in the 11th or 15th election districts, who would be allowed to sell wine on Sunday as early as 10 a.m. and not in conjunction with a meal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1407 (Delegate Edwards) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2005
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